



## Center for Educational Performance and Information

### 2005-2006 Graduation and Dropout Rates Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q: How were the schools/facilities selected to receive graduation and dropout rates?**

**A:** If a school/facility reported ten or more students in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades in the Fall 2005 Single Record Student Database (SRSD) Submission, the school/facility has been identified to receive graduation and dropout rates. Reference the document titled "How Schools/Facilities and Districts Were Selected to Receive Graduation and Dropout Rates for the 2005-2006 School Year" posted on the CEPI Web site.

**Q: What data will be used to determine the 2005-2006 graduation and dropout rates?**

**A:** CEPI will use SRSD data from the following submission cycles to calculate 2005-2006 school year graduation and dropout rates: fall 2005, spring 2006, end-of-year 2006 and fall 2006.

**Q: CEPI did not calculate graduation and dropout rates for my high school last year. Will my high school receive rates this year?**

**A:** Some schools/facilities that did not receive rates last year will receive rates this year. Reference the document titled "How Schools/Facilities and Districts Were Selected to Receive Graduation and Dropout Rates for the 2005-2006 School Year" posted on the CEPI Web site.

**Q: Will alternative education and special education centers receive rates?**

**A:** Alternative education and special education centers operated by a local education agency (LEA) or public school academy (PSA) that meet the minimum requirements will receive rates. See "How Schools/Facilities and Districts Were Selected to Receive Graduation and Dropout Rates for the 2004-2005 School Year" posted on the CEPI Web site for minimum requirements.

**Q: When will CEPI calculate true cohort graduation and dropout rates?**

**A:** CEPI is planning to publish a four-year cohort rate for the 2006-2007 school year.

**Q: What methodology will CEPI use to calculate the 2005-2006 rates?**

**A:** CEPI will utilize the same methodology as in past years. Reference the document titled "Details of Michigan's 2005-2006 Graduation and Dropout Methodology" posted on the CEPI Web site.

**Q: How will students who are "retained in grade" be counted?**

**A:** A student who is "retained in grade" will be calculated in the same manner as transfers (a transfer-out of his/her current graduating class and a transfer-in for the next lowest graduating class).

**Q: Can I get a listing of the students that comprise the aggregated counts?**

**A:** Within the Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application (GAD), authorized users have access to detailed student-level data associated with the data that were used to populate the application.

**Q: If a student is submitted as "unknown" or "dropout," will that student be counted as a dropout?**

**A:** If a student is originally identified as being included in the school/facility or district population, and the student is later submitted as an "unknown", "dropout", or the student's unique identification code (UIC) is never subsequently submitted by the district, the state will attempt to locate the student's UIC in another school district before the student is considered a dropout for the school year. If the student's UIC is located in another school district, the student will not be considered a dropout. However, if the student's UIC is not located in another school district, the student will be considered a dropout.

**Q: Will students submitted with educational settings of Alternative Education or Special Education be included in the calculation?**

**A:** Students submitted with an educational setting of 13 (Alternative Education) or 14 (Special Education) will not be included. However, if the student is reported in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 and Field 29: Program Eligibility/Participation, position two, or Field 125: Program Eligibility/Participation II, position one, indicate participation in those programs, the student will be included.

**Q: We did not submit our class of 2006 graduates in our SRSD submission. Can we submit them now?**

**A:** SRSD data from previous submission cycles can not be resubmitted. However, authorized users can make modifications to the class of 2006 graduation data in the GAD.

**Q: Are the data that are used for calculating the graduation and dropout rates based on our original full-time equivalency (FTE) data (DS4061) or our audited data (DS4120)?**

**A:** CEPI uses school district's original data submissions (not the audited data) when calculating the graduation and dropout rates.

**Q: How are the graduation and dropout data utilized?**

**A:** CEPI is required to annually report graduation and dropout rates to the legislature. Graduation rates are also used by the Michigan Department of Education for the Michigan School Report Cards. The rates are published on CEPI's Web site for public use, as well. The graduation and dropout data are also forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education.

**Q: If a student is enrolled on the fall 2005 count day, submitted as a dropout for the fall 2006 count, but then enrolls in another school district after the fall 2006 count day, is s/he still considered a dropout?**

**A:** Yes, the student is considered a dropout for the 2005-2006 school year.

**Q: Will changes that I make in the GAD affect our SRSD submissions and our 2006-2007 cohort?**

**A:** No, changes that are made in the GAD are isolated to the 2005-2006 school year graduation and dropout rates. These changes will not carry forward to the 2006-2007 cohort; neither will the changes update previously submitted SRSD submissions.

- Q: According to the business rules, only students -with FTE values greater than or equal to 0.50 are included when calculating the rates. Since the FTE value is not required during the end-of-year submission, how do you determine which students are to be included?**
- A:** Potential students are flagged with the end-of-year submission and their FTE values are checked during the fall 2006 submission. If their FTE values for the fall 2006 submission are greater than or equal to 0.50, then the students are included.
- Q: How are promotions and demotions handled?**
- A:** Students whose grade level changed during the spring '06 or end-of-year '06 submissions were removed from the grade level previously reported and added to the grade level currently reported. For example, during the fall '05 submission, a student's record was submitted as grade nine, then in the spring '06 submission the student's record was submitted as grade 10. The student was removed from grade nine (transfer-out) and included in grade 10 (transfer-in).
- Q: The "expected fall 2006 enrollment" and "unaccounted for students" categories do not have detailed student-level data associated with them. How do I access those data?**
- A:** The GAD Application is currently not programmed to follow the individual students' UICs; therefore, the Application can not tabulate those two categories. You may calculate those items with the data provided in the Application.

The following methods can be used to calculate the "expected fall 2006 enrollment" and "unaccounted for students" by graduating class (this example is for the class of 2009):

- 1) Start with the class of 2009 list of UICs for the "fall 2005 enrollment" (item 1)
- 2) Add the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "transfer-in" (item 2A)
- 3) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "transfer-out" (item 2B)
- 4) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "retained-in-grade" (item 3A)
- 5) Add the class of 2008 UICs that are considered "retained-in-grade" (item 3A)
- 6) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "located in other districts" (item 4)
- 7) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "GED recipients" (item 13)
- 8) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "Other High School Completers" (item 14)
- 9) The remaining UICs are for the students who are considered "expected fall 2006 enrollment" (item 5)
- 10) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "fall 2006" (item 6)
- 11) Remove the class of 2009 UICs that are considered "diploma recipients" (item 7)
- 12) The remaining UICs are for the students who are considered "unaccounted for students" (item 8)